

Environmental Water Account

Providing water at critical times is key to meeting ecosystem needs. Through its Environmental Water Account, CALFED is obtaining water and flexibility to benefit the environment and minimize water supply impacts on cities, farms and businesses.

Goals:

- To reduce conflicts between environmental needs and water project operations by providing water and flexibility.
- To better protect fish and habitats at critical times by providing water that otherwise would not be available.
- To increase water supply reliability by allowing projects to meet environmental and water supply needs at the same time.

Accomplishments:

- Established an interagency Environmental Water Account team to acquire, store and allocate water.
- Provided 287,000 acre-feet for environmental purposes without reducing allocations to farmers and cities.
- Farmers received assurances that their supplies would not be further reduced because of Endangered Species Act requirements.
- Continued work on acquisitions for the EWA in 2002.

Public and Peer Review:

- Scientific evaluation conducted each year to examine how much water was acquired, how it was used, and whether it had an impact.
- Ongoing review of EWA is provided by scientific advisors.
- EWA program is reviewed by CALFED member agencies as part of a cooperative management agreement.